

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 93

**Introduced by Assembly Members McClintock, Knox, and
Thomson**

February 12, 1998

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to
Scottish Tartan Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 93, as introduced, McClintock. Scottish Tartan Day.

This measure declare April 6, 1998, and every April 6th
thereafter as Scottish Tartan Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 1641, the earliest recorded attempt to
2 count and categorize the inhabitants of the English
3 colonies in America revealed over 4,000 individuals of
4 Scottish descent; and

5 WHEREAS, After the British Crown defeated Bonnie
6 Prince Charlie's Scottish Highlanders at the Battle of
7 Culloden in 1746, a second large wave of Scottish people
8 arrived in the colonies, many to escape the widespread
9 oppression suffered in their homeland; and

10 WHEREAS, The oppression of the Scots included the
11 Dress Act of August 1747, suppressive legislation that
12 forbade the wearing of kilts, playing the bagpipe, or even
13 displaying a swatch of tartan; and the breaking of this law
14 called for six months in jail on the first offense and for the

1 second offense, deportation to the colonies in America or
2 Australia for seven years of indentured labor; and

3 WHEREAS, Although the Act of Repeal of 1782
4 permitted the Scots to wear tartan again, it was not until
5 1822, when King George IV became impressed with the
6 poetry of Sir Walter Scott, that the display of the
7 traditional Scottish regalia in public was fully accepted;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Between 1829 and 1930, more than 700,000
10 Scottish people immigrated to the United States and
11 made it their new home, their descendents spreading
12 across our great country so that now 1.2 million are living
13 in California alone, more than in any other state, drawn
14 by the glory of our mountains and meadows, our lakes and
15 our streams, our valleys and coastal plains, reminiscent
16 perhaps of the rugged beauty of their homeland; and

17 WHEREAS, Principal Scottish Highland Games are
18 held each year in California in Pleasanton, Costa Mesa,
19 San Diego, Fresno, and many other venues throughout
20 the state, involving over 100 Scottish Clans and Societies,
21 with a total audience in excess of 250,000, demonstrating
22 widespread support and enthusiasm surrounding Scottish
23 traditions and celebrations; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals of Scottish birth and descent
25 have distinguished themselves throughout history with
26 their inventions, discoveries, and accomplishments,
27 including Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the
28 telephone; John Logie Baird, inventor of the television;
29 Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin; James
30 Hutton, the father of modern geology; John Paul Jones,
31 the founder of the United States Navy; and John Muir,
32 whose efforts enabled the nation the opportunity of
33 appreciating the grandeur of Yosemite National Park;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, The list of great and successful Scottish
36 people and the contributions they have made to the
37 world is so vast and impressive that Voltaire was
38 prompted to write that “We look to Scotland for all our
39 ideas of civilization”; and



1 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Arbroath, in 1320, set
2 forth the Scottish peoples' commitment for freedom 400
3 years before our own Declaration of Independence, and
4 those words still stir the hearts of people who would live
5 free: "For so long as one hundred of us remain alive we
6 will yield in no least way to the domination of the English.
7 We fight not for glory nor for wealth nor for honors, but
8 only and alone for freedom, which no good man
9 surrenders but with his life"; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Congress is on the
11 threshold of declaring April 6 to be National Tartan Day,
12 and California can seize the high ground with its sister
13 state of Colorado and eastward roll a wave of
14 confirmation; and

15 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that a day be set aside to
16 acknowledge and celebrate the great contributions that
17 Scottish people have made to this county and to the
18 world; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
20 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the
21 State of California wishes to honor the great traditions
22 and heritage of Scotland with a Scottish Tartan Day,
23 which is hereby declared to be April 6, 1998, and every
24 April 6th thereafter.

25 *Be it further resolved,* That in declaring Scottish Tartan
26 Day, the Legislature recognizes and commemorates the
27 many substantial contributions of the Scottish people to
28 the world and pays tribute to the tartan, a symbol of
29 Scottish courage in the face of adversity and loyalty to
30 family and to friend, so that perseverance in a just cause
31 and strength in their resolution that freedom is for the
32 many, not the few, may serve as a continuing inspiration
33 for all people today.

